



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Pasture Recovery Program

The Pasture Recovery Program (PRP) is authorized under the provisions of section 825 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act 2000 (P. L. 106-78).

Purpose

The purpose of the PRP is to provide assistance to owners and operators of pastureland on which livestock is normally grazed that was damaged or destroyed by drought during calendar year 1999. Owners and operators must reestablish the permanent vegetative forage crop on such pastureland to qualify for assistance under the PRP. Up to \$40 million will be available under the PRP.

Signup Period

Signup period will be held March 20 through April 14, 2000. Requests received after April 14 will **not** be accepted for the PRP. Producers who start the reseeding practice before completing an application for PRP payment will **not** be approved for payment. If the total amount of funds requested exceeds the available PRP funding, a factor will be determined and uniformly applied to all requests for payment.

Eligibility Requirements

The PRP will be available only in counties that are approved for both:

1. the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) for 1999 losses for a minimum 120-day payment period **AND**
2. the Emergency Conservation Program for drought emergency measures for 1999 damage.

Land must be established pasture on which livestock is normally grazed. Pasture from which hay or silage is normally harvested is ineligible for PRP. Federal or State operated lands and land operated by a political subdivision of a State are not eligible. No assistance is authorized for hayland or rangeland.

Producers must own or have control over the livestock that graze the affected land **and** have control of the land for the contract period of 5 years to be eligible for PRP. Producers who have gross annual income in excess of \$2.5 million are ineligible.

Producers must certify that the pastureland to be enrolled in PRP was so damaged or destroyed by drought during 1999 that seeding is required to reestablish the forage crop.

In addition, the producer must be enrolled in the 1999 LAP, comply with the noxious weed laws of the applicable State or local jurisdiction, and control any weeds, insects, pests and other undesirable species to ensure the establishment and maintenance of the approved forage crop.

Permitted Practices

Two conservation practices are authorized under the PRP: PRP1, Reseeding with Seedbed Preparation; and PRP2, Reseeding without Seedbed Preparation. The seeding mixtures used in these practices are approved by the State Farm Service Agency (FSA) committee.

Contract Terms and Payment Limitations

PRP contracts are for a 5-year term. The maximum amount that a producer can earn under the PRP is \$2,500 per "person." In addition, this maximum amount may be further reduced if the total amount of PRP assistance requested exceeds available funding and a factor is applied.

Payment Rates and Terms

There will be two payment rates applicable to PRP, one for each of the two authorized practices.

These rates, which will be determined by the State FSA committee, will be based on 50 percent of the average cost to reseed the land. The rates may be applied statewide or by areas within the State. The maximum payment rate State FSA committees may establish is \$75 per acre.

Producers will be paid upon certification and verification of the completion of the reseeding practice. All PRP payments should be made prior to September 30, 2000, except in fall seeded or summer fallow areas.

PRP payments will be subject to spot checks to ensure program integrity.

Technical responsibility for the PRP is assigned to FSA.

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